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# WELLESLEY COLLEGE

## 1899—1909

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At the completion of ten years of one administration at Wellesley College, the longest continuous administration it has ever had, it seems appropriate to make some brief statement to the alumnæ and friends of the College of the changes that have occurred.

The past ten years have been a time of great growth in all the institutions of learning in the country, and Wellesley has shared in the general prosperity. With the growth in the number of students the departments of the College have been taxed to provide instructors, in many cases the actual numbers of the teaching force in a given department having been almost doubled.

## Internal Changes

Ten years ago, following the old custom, Economics was taught under the Department of History, the professor in charge being called the Professor of History and Economics. This department has been divided, with a full professor in charge of each, and large classes have pursued the courses in Economics. Wellesley has had the advantage of proximity to Boston, with its interesting social settlements, which have given students opportunity for observing social conditions and understanding some of the practical results of economic experiments.

Ten years ago the Department of French was in charge of an associate professor. This department is now on a firm basis, with a full professor at the head of it, the first professor appointed for eighteen years. There was no professor of Music, and the students in harmony and theory of music numbered twenty-three. There is now a strong department, with a professor and an associate professor, and other instructors. The theory students this year numbered one hundred and seventy-four, and at the end of the year a recital was given of twenty-four original pieces, written by members of the theory classes. These comprised compositions for voice, violin, and piano, including some compositions in strict form, with themes and variations and a three part fugue.

Spanish was not taught ten years ago, where now there is excellent instruction, by a native Andalusian, a graduate of the International Institute of Spain.

Three new departments have been created: Astronomy, English Language, and Hygiene and Physical Education. The Whitin Observatory, with its two domes and telescopes, gives ample opportunity for the enthusiastic work of the students in Astronomy. The linguistic courses offered heretofore in the de-

partments of English Literature and of English Composition have been collected to form the department of English Language. The Department of Hygiene and Physical Education, which has been created during the period under review, is the outgrowth of steady and continuous work. The tabulation of measurements and vital statistics of the College makes records of the first importance. This department is just about to enter upon a new stage, for the College has accepted the offer of the Trustees of the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics to become the college department of Hygiene and Physical Education, with an endowment of $100,000, provided a gymnasium for thorough work could be furnished. Through the efforts of Miss Homans, the Director of the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics, and friends of the College, funds for the gymnasium have been secured, and it is expected that it will be ready for work in the autumn. Students of the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics will finish their course here in 1910 as special students. For three years a two-year course for special students will be offered by this department; after that time no students will be received who are not candidates for the B.A. degree.

In 1899 the 657 students were from thirty-six states, Hawaii, Canada and Turkey. This year there have been 1,282 students from forty-six states, China, Japan, Hawaii, Canada, Nova Scotia, Porto Rico and Persia. The number of officers of administration and instruction has been increased from 96 in 1898–99 to 149 in 1908–09, an increase of 55 per cent. The number of students has increased from 657 in 1898–99 to 1,282 in 1908–09, an increase of 95 per cent. While there has been no significant change in the admission requirements, there has been a gradual raising of the standard by rejecting students heavily conditioned. Although the number of hours required for the degree of B.A. has been decreased

from 59 to 58, the standard for graduation has been raised. In 1899 candidates for the B.A. degree were obliged to offer 59 hours of completed work and to obtain the grade "passed with credit" in 29½ of those hours. At present 58 hours must be offered, of which 33 must be passed with credit, and in 1910 this number will be raised to 34. The courses given by the various departments of instruction have increased from 161, aggregating 354 hours of instruction per week, in 1898–99, to 207 courses, aggregating 451½ hours per week, in 1908–09, an increase of 27 per cent.

The internal management of such a community as Wellesley has demanded constant attention, and under the able supervision of the Director of Halls of Residence a unified administration in all of the houses has been most carefully worked out. Each house keeps its own individuality; but the house mistresses have the advantage of co-operation and full consultation.

The laundry in the basement of College Hall had become quite inadequate for the amount of work which it had to do, and by the assistance of friends an excellent laundry has been built, in which the College work and work of the students is done. It is a well-lighted and well-ventilated building, and, though not strictly a college laundry, is able to do the work of the College in a far more economical manner than was possible with the old equipment.

## External Changes

A visitor to the College will witness many outward and visible changes which have occurred during the last ten years. The Chapel was dedicated in June, 1899, and has since had very beautiful memorials added to it. The window in the east transept, in memory of Mrs. Houghton, was designed by Tiffany; that in memory of Mrs. Claflin is also a Tiffany window; a third window,

from the studios of Tiffany, is in memory of Miss Cornelia Green, a student of the class of '92. There are two windows from the LaFarge studios—one in memory of President Shafer, and the other in memory of Miss Angie L. Peck, of '90. Within a few weeks the most beautiful memorial in the Chapel has been unveiled, a bas-relief by Daniel Chester French, in memory of Alice Freeman Palmer, President of the College from 1882 to 1887.

Wilder Hall and the Observatory were added in 1900, and the President's House followed in 1902. In 1903, after over a year of negotiation, the central heating plant was established. The previous system of having each house heated by its own furnace demanded many licensed engineers, and was altogether an expensive way of doing the work. The central heating plant now furnishes heat, light, and hot water to the College houses. This was the gift of Mr. Rockefeller, who gave $150,000 for it, on condition that the friends of the College should raise an equal sum for endowment. In 1904 Pomeroy Hall, the first of the new quadrangle of dormitories, was built. This was a bequest to the College from Mrs. Pomeroy, a friend of Mrs. Whitin's. In the same year Billings Hall was added for the work of the Department of Music. This contains an auditorium seating four hundred persons, in which is placed the old organ from College Hall Chapel, rebuilt and added to. It has also class-rooms for the instruction in theory, and a very beautiful library. In 1905 Cazenove Hall, the second of the new quadrangle, was built, and in 1906 Mrs. Whitin added the Observatory House for the Professors of Astronomy to her gift to the College. Beebe Hall followed two years later, and in 1909 Shafer Hall is completing the quadrangle, while the Library and Gymnasium are also rising.

The collections of the College have been greatly enriched during the past ten years. The most beautiful and valuable gift

which we have had is that of the Frances Pearsons Plimpton Library of Italian Literature, containing both manuscripts and early printed books of great beauty and value. One book has annotations by the hand of Petrarch himself. This beautiful library has been housed temporarily in Billings Hall, but is to have a room of its own in the College Library now building. The Library has grown during the ten years, the total number of volumes in 1899 being 49,680, while we have at present 65,459.

Four beautiful antique fragments have been given the College by Miss Hannah Parker Kimball—a Greek torso is of special value, and a bas-relief from Naples is a fine example of Greek work. A statue of a boy with a rabbit has also been presented to the College by various friends, and is a piece of undoubted authenticity. Through the interest of some of our trustees, the College is receiving constant contributions from the findings of the Egyptian Exploration Society. Portions of papyri have lately been added. There is already a collection of scarabs and small objects in pottery. A beautiful gold coin of Ptolemy Philadelphus has been added this year, as a gift from one of the trustees.

The funds in the Treasurer's report for 1899 are entered at $317,722.03, with a debt of $109,223.62. In 1908, the last report, the funds were $878,944.39, an increase of $561,222.36. As the debt of $109,000 was also paid, that must be added to the sum received, $561,222.36, making a total contribution of over $670,000.

In round numbers the College has been given $1,300,000 during the last ten years. The first gift of $100,000 from Mr. Rockefeller was offset by the payment of the debt just mentioned; then followed the gift of the heating plant from Mr. Rockefeller of $150,000, and the Library from Mr. Carnegie of $125,000, gifts which had to be duplicated by friends of the College before

they could be secured. The amount of work which friends of the College performed in obtaining these gifts is most gratefully remembered. The whole sum secured was $750,000. Professorship endowments, with no offset, to the amount of $125,000 have been given: the Helen Day Gould professorship of Biblical History and the Kimball Professorship of Art are each endowed to the amount of $50,000, and the Hunnewell Professorship of Botany has an endowment of $25,000.

After negotiations, lasting over a year, the College has arranged for the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics to come to it with an endowment of $100,000 given by the heirs of Mrs. Mary Hemenway, and the sum of at least $100,000 for the building of the gymnasium, contributed by friends of the College, making another sum of $200,000; $1,075,000 thus having been contributed to the College.

The gift of two dormitories, Wilder and Pomeroy Halls, the Observatory and the Observatory House and Billings Hall represent $200,000, and we have had scholarship funds to the amount of over $50,000 given us during this period. A gift of $10,000 for the maintenance of the Alexandra Garden has come to the College from Mrs. Corderio A. Severance. The garden is laid out in the new dormitory quadrangle, and makes a very beautiful memorial in living green. These sums taken together make a series of gifts amounting to $1,335,000.

It will thus be seen that the friends of Wellesley have been generous to the College. A woman's college is still a new thing and has not a large constituency of alumnæ to draw upon. From the growth of the last ten years the friends of the College will see that great possibilities are open to it, and will appreciate that the need of endowment is one of the prime necessities of the future. The question of raising salaries of all professional workers is a pressing

one, and great opportunities of usefulness are open for the College. Graduates and friends are therefore urged not to relax their efforts by reason of the prosperous condition which this survey of the ten years displays. Growth involves more growth, and the highest aim of an institution of learning must be a continual advance.

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|---|---|
| Professors in 1899 | 16 |
| Associate Professor in 1899 | 17 |
| Instructors in 1899 | 39 |
| Assistants in 1899 | 7 |
| Other Officers | 17 |
| Total, | 96 |

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|---|---|
| Professors in 1909 | 17 |
| Associate Professors in 1909 | 32 |
| Instructors in 1909 | 53 |
| Assistants in 1909 | 17 |
| Other Officers | 30 |
| Total, | 149 |

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|---|---|
| Number of students, 1899 | 657 |
| Number of students, 1909 | 1,282 |
| Increase of | 625 |

BUILDINGS

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1900 | Wilder Hall | 1905 | Cazenove Hall |
| 1900 | Observatory | 1906 | Observatory House |
| 1902 | President's House | 1908 | Beebe Hall |
| 1903 | Central Heating and Power House | 1909 | Shafer Hall |
| 1904 | Pomeroy Hall | 1909 | The Library |
| 1904 | Billings Hall | 1909 | The Gymnasium |

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